Oxnard Plain RAB Executive Board:

Co-Chair—Community: Ms. A. Spanopoulos
Co-Chair—Military: CDR R. Thackston, CEC
Administrator: Ms. Gail Pringle

Issue 3 September 2000

Restoration Advisory Board Newsletter

Dear RAB Members and others with interest, this is Issue 3 of our newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep everyone updated about Installation Restoration (IR) activities at Hueneme and Mugu as well as National Environmental Technology Test Site (NETTS) events. Our next RAB meeting is scheduled for October 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Orvene Carpenter Community Center. The agenda is enclosed, since the date is only a few weeks away.

Mike Riley, Southwestern Division's Remedial Project Manager (RPM) who was introduced at our July meeting suffered some health problems and will soon retire from Navy service. We wish him well and look forward to meeting someone new! We seem to wear out our RPMs rather quickly!

MUGU

The draft final report on the pilot bioremediation test at Mugu 24, the "Got Milk?" site, has been delayed until late September. Steve Granade has reviewed the report findings, and as predicted, he notes that one recommendation will be to add oxygen to speed up the process. Once the report is finalized and results of the pilot validated, oxygen will be added at the site. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact Steve Granade at 989-3806.

In spite of the success at Mugu 24, it took some time to get permission from the Regional Water Quality Control Board to essentially repeat the pilot test at Mugu 6, now affectionately known as the "Got Milk, Jr." site. The pilot test will begin later this month.

The Navy, including our Environmental Division and the Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center, teamed with Geosyntech Consultants and developed a SERDP (Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program) proposal involving the bioremediation of ammonium perchlorate. Ammonium perchlorate is a byproduct from the use of munitions and solid rocket propellant. It is highly soluble in water and has been shown to have impacts to the thyroid glands of animals. The proposal was accepted, and as a result, soil and groundwater samples from the San Nicolas Island Emergency Ordnance Disposal range (SNI 18) were collected on July 18 and 19. They are being used in a laboratory to see if it is indeed feasible to bioremediate ammonium perchlorate.

View of Mugu 6

Approvals from DTSC, Fish and Game, and the Water Board have been received to restart the Mugu 5 electrokinetic project. You may remember that this project was stopped in June 1999 because of the unwanted formation of chloroform. Several process changes have been implemented to eliminate this problem.

HUENEME

The CBC 14 landfill cover was hydroseeded in July with an approved mixture of grass seed that is indigenous to this area. The grass is growing as you read this newsletter and is beginning to take on the color green. Irrigation will be provided until October, which should be adequate time for the grass to become self-supporting. The mixture was selected for optimum performance based on agricultural testing of the top soil.

The feasibility study continues for 9 of our 20 sites. The contractor, Bechtel National, Inc., is doing a very thorough job in carrying out their tasks and overseeing a partnership of DTSC (Department of Toxic Substances Control) regulators, the Navy and themselves. The partners have met often to discuss the methodology and the results of the baseline human health risk assessment (BHHRA) in order that the best risk management decisions can be made. Several sites have had the BHHRA calculated during either the site inspection phase or the remedial investigation phase. These calculations, however, were revisited based on state toxicological recommendations. On other sites, a full BHHRA was calculated when one wasn't available.

The results are in and early indications recommend 3 sites for no further action (NFA) and recommend institutional controls (IC) for the remaining 6 sites. One outstanding assessment yet to be completed is an ecological assessment, that is, do any sites pose a threat to the animal and plant environment? Since CBC is not as ecologically blessed as our sister site, Point Mugu, we are not expecting any hurdles resulting from this phase.

What does all this mean?

For NFA, as long as the ecological assessment doesn't present any surprises, work at these sites is essentially over and the parcel can be returned to the base for mission use. IC, on the other hand, is considered a remedy decision and is site dependent. ICs are primarily legal mechanisms imposed to ensure that restrictions determined for each site stay in place. The contractor is looking at various IC options such as fences, removal of monitoring wells, signage, and, personnel training. These and other findings will be presented at our next RAB meeting scheduled for October 5, 2000. The results should be interesting.

NETTS

Most of the National Environmental Technology Test Site's (NETTS) time and energy is dedicated to finding solutions for the nationwide MTBE problem. A bio-barrier, the largest full-scale demonstration of it's kind, has been installed on the parade field and will be dedicated at a ribbon cutting ceremony, Friday, September 22 at 10:00 a.m. This is the latest in a series of technologies being tested at CBC, and there are more on the horizon. The U.S. EPA has designated CBC as a host test site for their MTBE Demonstration Project, and will bring up to 6 new technologies designed to treat MTBE to CBC in the next two years. A fact sheet has been prepared and will be available at the October 5 RAB meeting.

That's our news since July. We'll see you October 5! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me, Gail Pringle, at 989-9256 or e-mail pringlegl@cbcph.navy.mil.